



CITY OF LODI

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

AGENDA TITLE: Utility Rate Schedules for Low-Income and Disabled Citizens
MEETING DATE: February 20, 1991
PREPARED BY: City Manager

RECOMMENDED ACTION: None required. Information only.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: With the implementation of the new electric utility rate schedules, the City Council requested that a report be made at a Council meeting informing citizens of special consideration with regard to utility rates in certain circumstances. This report is for information only and requires no action.

Two years ago (February, 1989) the City Council took action to implement a utility rate (water, sewer and refuse) discount of 10% for citizens who qualified for Supplemental Security Income (SSI), which is Federally funded, and/or State Supplemental Payment (SSP) which is State funded. Eligibility for these benefits is determined by Social Security after a careful and most thorough review of the individual's true financial position. While Social Security estimates there are approximately 5,000 persons living in the Lodi area who receive these benefits, to date only 69 citizens have applied for and are receiving this 10% discount. In addition, in a previous electric utility rate adjustment, the City Council approved the implementation of a "lifeline" rate that benefits low electricity users. The residential rate schedule contains a lower, first block energy rate to provide a minimum level of low-cost energy to all residential customers. On the assumption that low-income persons and seniors generally use fewer energy consumptive devices, this provides a built-in benefit. In addition, residential customers with qualifying medical conditions are entitled to a much larger block of energy at the lower first block rate. This rate is designed to provide additional lower cost energy for electrically powered life-support devices, wheelchairs, and, under certain conditions, air conditioning and heating. The customer's physician makes the determination of need. Currently, there are approximately 75 people on this schedule.

APPROVED: _____

THOMAS A. PETERSON
City Manager



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The staff will be pleased to respond to City Council inquiries in regard to this program.

FUNDING: None required

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thos. A. Peterson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Thomas A. Peterson
City Manager

TAP:br

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